



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 26, 2013

Ms. Alexa O'Brien  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 3799, PO Box 55819  
Boston, MA 02205

RE: 2011 FOIA Case Log

Dear Ms. O'Brien:

This is in response to your request dated March 18, 2013. We have assigned Case Control Number F-2013-04716 and will begin the processing of your request based upon the information provided in your communication.

Your request for a fee waiver has been granted; therefore, your request will be processed at no charge to you.

The cut-off date is the date the search is initiated unless you have provided a specific timeframe.

Unusual circumstances (including the number and location of Department components involved in responding to your request, the volume of requested records, etc.) may arise that would require additional time to process your request.

Our published regulations regarding expedition, 22 C.F.R. § 171.12(b), require a specific showing of a compelling need. **Expedited processing is granted only in the following situations: (1) imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; (2) urgently needed by an individual primarily engaged in disseminating information in order to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity and the information is urgently needed in that a particular value of the information would be lost if not disseminated quickly; (3) substantial humanitarian reasons; and (4) loss of substantial due process rights.** Your request does not meet any of the established criteria. Regrettably, I must advise that you have not provided adequate justification for expedition. However, you may be assured that we will make every effort to process your request in as timely a manner as possible. For your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of the Department's expedited processing criteria.

If you wish to appeal the denial of expedition, you may write to the Chief, Requester Liaison Division, at the address below, within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

## **Expedited Processing Information**

Expedited processing shall be granted to a requester after the requester requests such and demonstrates a compelling need for the information. A compelling need is deemed to exist where the requester can demonstrate one of the following:

1. **A Compelling Need** means that the failure to obtain the records on an expedited basis could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual.
2. **A Compelling Need** means that the information is urgently needed by an individual primarily engaged in disseminating information in order to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity. An individual primarily engaged in disseminating information to the public. Representatives of the news media would normally qualify; however, other persons must demonstrate that their primary activity involves publishing or otherwise disseminating information to the public, not just to a particular segment or group.
  - (a) **Urgently Needed** means that the information has a particular value that will be lost if not disseminated quickly. Ordinarily this means a breaking news story of historical interest only, or information sought for litigation or commercial activities would not qualify nor would a news media publication or broadcast deadline unrelated to the news breaking nature of the information.
  - (b) **Actual or Alleged Federal Government Activity.** The information concerns some actions taken, contemplated, or alleged by or about the Government of the United States, or one of its components or agencies, including the Congress.
3. **Substantial Due Process** rights of the requester would be impaired by the failure to process immediately; or
4. **Substantial Humanitarian** concerns would be harmed by the failure to process immediately.

A demonstration of compelling need by a requester shall be made by a statement certified by the requester to be true and correct to the best of their knowledge.